

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-8, 10-24, 26-36, and 45-50. However, the Examiner objected to the specification and rejected claims 38-44, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and second paragraph, in view of the “not rubber” recitation added to claim 38 in the previous amendment. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s objection and rejections. Nevertheless, in view of the Examiner interview summarized below, the Applicants hereby amend claim 38 and cancel claim 52 to place the application in condition for allowance. As agreed upon during the Examiner interview, the Applicants hereby remove the “not rubber” recitation and incorporate dependent claim 52 into independent claim 38. This amendment does not add any new matter. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-8, 10-24, 26-36, and 38-51 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Interview Summary

On May 9, 2006, the Applicants’ representative, Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226), initiated a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss the Final Office Action. The Applicants’ representative pointed out that the subject matter, for example, of dependent claims 51 and 52 is allowable subject matter. The Applicants’ representative proposed amending independent claim 38 to remove the negative limitation (i.e., not rubber) added in the previous response, and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 52. The Examiner agreed that this amendment would place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, the Examiner’s objection and rejections noted above are now moot.

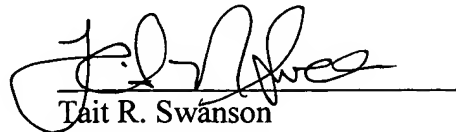
Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendment set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a

telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2006



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